

CBS EVENING NEWS

16 April 1984

U.S./ KURTIS: Good evening. This is the CBS Evening News. I'm  
ANTI-TERRORISM Bill Kurtis, sitting in tonight for Dan Rather.

KURTIS: For the past several days, the Reagan administration has been laying the groundwork for a declaration of war against an unconventional form of warfare, but Secretary of State Shultz called it state-sponsored terrorism. To combat this, President Reagan has approved a series of measures to fight the terrorists on their own battlefield. Bill Plante has the details.

PLANTE: President Reagan has authorized the first strike policy against terrorism, inside or outside the United States. Administration sources said National Security Council decision directive 138, signed by Mr. Reagan two weeks ago, permits preemptive strikes and reprisal raids against terrorists. It authorizes special anti-terrorist teams within the CIA and FBI, and it permits the elimination of known terrorists once a plot is uncovered. The new initiative grew out of U.S. frustration in the wake of bombing of the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Marine compound in Beirut as well as a number of smaller terrorist incidents. The administration also wants congressional approval for huge amounts of reward money, as much as \$500,000 million, to encourage better intelligence on terrorist activity, but congressional approval for funding may not be easy, given the current mood on Capitol Hill. ROBERT KUPPERMAN (Terrorism Expert): Do you think that the Congressional Oversight Committee on intelligence matters is going to allow the administration grand unprecedented powers to act with impunity in any country they wish, because some terrorist or terrorists may exist?

PLANTE: Intelligence sources say this new directive raises the ante across the board. They want it, not only so they can retaliate in situations such as the bombings in Lebanon but also as a tool to further U.S. interests in Central America. All of this was supposed to be secret. The fact that it leaked probably indicates that some people wanted Congress to know and that Congress will have a lot of questions. Bill Plante, CBS News, the White House.